

When this bank was liquidated, the Commercial Bank was formed. This has since become part of the First Security Bank of Utah system. In 1950 a beautiful new bank building was erected. It opened for business June 10, 1950, with Gordon Mendenhall as manager. The present manager is Byron Cheever.

DRUG STORES

The first drug store in Heber was opened December 18, 1889 by Richard Bridge who had been with the ZCMI drug store in Salt Lake City. Mr. Bridge also served as Heber postmaster for a number of years. His drug store was on the east side of Main Street between First and Second North, and featured the first soda fountain in the valley.

In 1902 Mr. Bridge sold his store to Dr. W. R. Wherritt and moved back to Salt Lake City. Dr. Wherritt reorganized the store and then sold it to Abram Hatch, son of Joseph Hatch. When the Bank Building was completed the store moved into the south half of that building. Later Abram Hatch sold the business to Mrs. Moroni (Nellie) Turner, who operated it for a time and then sold it to Mr. and Mrs. Bliss Bignell. Meanwhile, Levi and William Turner started a drug store in a little building north of the old Jeffs Store. Mr. Fleider was the druggist. When Mr. Hatch moved into the Bank Building, the Turners moved their store to the Bridge Building.

Jesse Hiatt, another druggist, came to Heber in 1917 in the employ of a corporation headed by Ed Hatch, Andrew Murdock, Fred Giles and other stockholders. Mr. Hiatt gradually bought the interests of the various stockholders until he owned the business. This store is still being operated by the Hiatt Brothers, sons of Mr. Hiatt. They also own and operate the drug store once owned by Mr. and Mrs. Bignell.

PHOTOGRAPHY

Photography had an early start in Heber when William Willis and his wife opened a studio in a cabin near their home on 482 S. Main. Later they built a new studio on the site presently occupied by Chick's Cafe. Many treasured pictures in old family albums were taken by Mr. and Mrs. Willis. Mrs. Willis learned the art from her husband and then operated the shop while he studied law and became a prominent attorney. Leslie Condon took over the business from the Willis', but did not maintain it long. Another photo studio was operated for a short time by Mr. and Mrs. Harold Pool in the Avon Theatre building. Now Don Barker does the photography work of the valley.



Early view of Main and Center Streets, showing the first bank, built in 1904.

BANKING

As business prospered in the community, banking became a part of the business picture. The first commercial bank, The Bank of Heber City, opened in 1904. An advertisement in the Wasatch Wave near Christmas of 1908 told the people: "Begin the New Year Right by opening an account with the savings department of the Bank of Heber City. We receive deposits of One Dollar and upwards."



The First Security Bank of Utah's building in Heber, erected in 1950.